

GEORGE FAYETTE MECHAM
AND IDA BOREN AND CLARA
FARLEY



George Fayette Mecham was born April 5, 1875, at Wallsburg, the son of Lewis Mecham and Esther Herbert.

George was a very industrious boy and helped his father operate the two farms Lewis owned. One was located on the Provo River below Wallsburg and the other in Wallsburg. The family lived in Wallsburg during the winter. During the summer the parents took the younger children and lived on the river farm, leaving George and his sister, Polly, to take care of the family home and farm in Wallsburg.

George married Ida Viola Boren, daughter of William Jasper Boren Sr. and Lucina Mecham on April 29, 1896, in the Salt Lake Temple. She was born March 5, 1878, and died January 19, 1914, of complications following childbirth. He later married Clara Mae Farley, born in February, 1892, at Bedford, Trimble, Kentucky, a daughter of James Wesley Farley and Nancy Alice Stone.

George died July 19, 1942 and is buried in Wallsburg.

Ida Boren attended school in Wallsburg. She worked in the Primary for many years

and was organist for all the Church organizations until her death.

She died in a Provo hospital in January, 1914. At the time of her funeral there was such a bad snowslide in Provo Canyon that after bringing her casket by train to the slide, it had to be carried across the slide and placed in a waiting bob-sleigh to be transported to the chapel for services.

George and Ida's children: Arthur Fayette, Armarie, Dean, Erma V., Viola, baby.

George followed many occupations during his life time to care for his large family. He farmed, herded sheep and worked at a logging camp on many occasions. Their home was always filled with music and love.

George had a paralytic stroke while hauling hay in the summer of 1935. He was never well after that. In January 1939 he and his second wife Clara moved to Provo so Clara could care for her widowed mother.

George was a very kind man and much in demand in time of sickness. He helped many families when they had sickness in their homes, often staying with them for several days or weeks until the person recovered or died. He was a very capable nurse and just his presence gave comfort to people in distress. He had a good sense of humor and his greatest pleasure in life was the enjoyment of his family. He was also very generous to anyone in need.

Clara Mae Farley grew to young womanhood on a small farm at Bedford, Kentucky, the sixth child in her family. In 1899 the Farleys first heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ as preached by the Mormon missionaries. Clara was seven when her parents were converted and baptized on January 25, 1900. She was baptized July 13, 1902.

As young children she and her sisters were persecuted by their friends who taunted them with such remarks as "When are you going to become Brigham Young's next wife?" or "Have your horns started to grow yet?" And many other remarks such as these. One incident that stood out in Clara's mind and strengthened her testimony considerably was the time the preacher in the United Brethren Church stood up in the morning service and prayed that if any devils, meaning the Mormon Elders, started to church that night, they should drop just before they got to the gate. That night the preacher, Brother Seemore, dropped just before he reached the gate and another preacher had to take over the services for him. This

preacher made the remark: "Brother Seemore will have to watch what he says after this."

Clara and her sisters would take the church tracts and other information into homes that the missionaries couldn't get into. They would take their guitars and sing the LDS hymns to some of the elderly homebound people who thought these hymns were the most beautiful they had ever heard. Most of these were women whose husbands were very bitter against the Mormons. Many would have joined the Church if conditions had been different.

When Clara was 10 tragedy struck. It was found she had Glaucoma, a dreaded eye disease. She was in the third grade in school. Her eyes would water so much she could hardly see to get her lessons. The disease advanced until she was almost totally blind. Not much was known about the disease then. Finally, her father learned of a specialist in Madison, Indiana, Dr. Cockran, so he took her to him. He operated on her right eye and due to his skill the sight was partially saved. For the greater part of her life the only sight she had was through one eye. She had three operations on her eyes, one for the removal of her left eye and two on her right eye. None were successful so she is now totally blind. She has learned to read braille and spends many hours reading. She has read the Bible, Book of Mormon and other religious magazines in braille as well as many novels.

In her father, John Wesley Farley's history, it tells of the many LDS missionaries coming to his home and about one, John Albert Mecham, of whom they were especially fond. Through his invitation, Clara and three brothers came to Wallsburg to make their home with the Mecham family and later Clara met George Fayette Mecham, a widower with five children, whom she married. The step-children loved her and she was a wonderful mother to them. The last time Ida's daughter Viola came home before she died she told Clara she would rather come "home" than any place she knew of. Clara treasures this wonderful tribute.

George and Clara lived in the Wallsburg home until their first daughter was born, then sold the farm "up the valley" and the home in Wallsburg and bought a farm west of town.

The home was a happy one filled with love and music. Although nearly blind

Clara could play the violin and guitar and had a beautiful voice. She taught her children to sing harmony and Norma and Lorna made their public debut at the age of seven and five years. They have been singing often since that time. Some of their happy childhood memories are gathering on the front porch after sunset with Clara playing the guitar and all of them singing on till dark or Clara with George playing the harmonica to her accompaniment. Her fingers would glide over the guitar strings so fast.

After George's death an old missionary friend of the family, David Abraham Penrod of Wallsburg, who had lost his wife came to call on Clara. They were both lonesome. So, on September 26, 1943, they were married in the Salt Lake Temple for all time. Clara's mother and Clara's husband died in 1948 and 1949 at his home in Pleasant Grove. Until June of 1961 she lived in this little home and now makes her home with her daughters, Mrs. Robert G. Smith of American Fork and Mrs. Clifford G. Baccus of Provo.

She has always been an inspiration to everyone who has ever known her. She was an immaculate homemaker, doing her own cooking, cleaning, and even sewing — this by touch, with her children threading the needle. She made quilts, rugs and even shirts for her little boys when they were small. At 70 she is still young looking. She takes pride in her appearance and always likes to look neat and clean.

George and Clara's children are: Norma, Mary, Lorna, George Lamond, Wess Dwaine.